

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – SPRING 17 Issue 37

CLINIC NEWS

It's starting to warm up already and Spring is here to stay. With the warmer weather many people are already noticing that fleas are out and about and on their pets already. It is important to treat all year round for fleas. Come talk to one of our staff to work out which product will be best for your cat and dog.

Many of you will know Barbara one of our veterinary nurses. She has been a familiar face here for 12 years. Sadly she is leaving to follow a new direction to work at the SPCA Canterbury in their veterinary clinic. We wish her all the very best and will all miss her and her guinea pig expertise.

SEASONAL UPDATE – Spring

Spring has sprung and its lovely to see life in the garden again, but with it comes pollen and other allergens that can make not only us, but our furry friends a bit itchy or sniffly. If you notice any of those symptoms, get your pets checked out sooner rather than later. It's easier to resolve a mildly itchy pet than treat one that has spent weeks chewing itself causing serious damage to the skin and introducing infections that are difficult to resolve.

Now is also a good time to book in your pet for its annual health check and update its vaccinations if required. Remember too that kennels and catteries book out quickly for the summer holiday period, so if you are going away and need boarding for your pet, book them in now before it's too late.

Moving House with Cats

By Ang, VN

Moving house can be one of the most stressful events we as humans can experience in our lives. Can you just imagine what it must be like for our furry little feline friends? They are very sensitive critters. We go and disrupt their normal routines, and they have to deal with new smells, sounds and everything looking different. It's no wonder they get scared and stressed.

Here are some tips on making it as stress free as possible for them. Planning ahead is very important! In addition, keep everything as calm as possible because they can pick up on your stress too. Be patient with them, and try to keep the same routine, as this provides security and reassurance for them. Lots of cuddles and play will also help.

The process of packing can be scary, they know something is up. If you can, putting them into a cattery on the day of shifting can be helpful. Make sure they are up-to-date with vaccinations, as these will be required for entry to a boarding cattery. It's a good idea to have your cat microchipped and placed on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, so if they were to go missing during the move, there is an increased chance of having your pet re-united with you. If you have already done this, make sure you update your details on the register. A collar and tag with your new details on it is another back up way of identifying your kitty if they go missing.

Make sure your kitty is transported in a cat carrier. A blanket over the cage can be helpful in making them feel safe and secure during the transportation. Once you have finished unpacking and are organised, bring your cat into your new home. Keep all windows and doors closed, so there is no way of escape. Designate one room to start with, that has litter trays, food, water, toys and hiding places.



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

You've probably heard of putting butter on their paws to stop them from running away but, while it won't harm then, this is an old wives tale!! Once they are happy, slowly give them access to the rest of the house to explore. Make sure you have enough litter trays, as one litter tray per cat is not enough. Some need 2 or 3 per cat. These need to be placed in areas away from lots of noise and foot traffic.

We recommend using a Feliway plug in, which is a calming feline facial pheromone in a diffuser form. This makes them feel calm and safe in their new home. Feliway is available over the counter at our clinic. Some cats are extremely stressy and can spray and pee in places you don't want them to. Be patient, they are not being naughty. Do not rub their noses in it as this can make things a lot worse for them. You may have the odd accident but be patient. We have special cleaners you can purchase that get rid of urine stains and smells if this should happen. A lot of cats can be prone to bladder and urinary tract issues when they are stressed. If you suspect any problems, your cat will need a check up with a vet as it can be a very dangerous health issue. If you notice them straining and crying when trying to pee, blood in their urine, unable to pee or only small amounts at a time, then a vet visit is a must!

The length of time you will need to keep your cat inside will vary, but be prepared to keep your cat inside for a couple of weeks to get them used to their surroundings. Once they are confident and happy inside, supervised visits outside to start with is recommended before you leave them outside by themselves. You can buy cat harnesses which can help with this transition for going outside. Make sure they have easy access to get back inside if they become scared. They will have to create a territory for themselves and deal with new cats in the neighbourhood, which can be very upsetting for your furry friend.

Remember, we are always here to help if you need any advice. Give us a call or pop in to have a chat, we are only too happy to help.

PROMOTIONS

Free Hill's food storage containers.

Purchase any 12kg bag of Hill's Science Diet Canine or any 2kg or bigger bag of Hill's Science Diet Feline and receive a free food storage container with each bag purchased. Only while stock lasts.

\$10 off Hill's Science Diet Feline optimal care 4kg bag + free scarf with purchase.

While stock lasts.

"Give everyone the summer treatment and win!"

Purchase any 3 or 6pk of Frontline Plus cat or dog, Nexgard chewables 3pk, Nexgard Spectra 3pk or 3 packs of Broadline spot-on solution for cats for chance to win a jet ski, a spa pool or outdoor furniture.

Promotion concludes 29th December 2017.

Give everyone the summer treatment & win!

Purchase any 3 or 6 pack of FRONTLINE® Plus for cats or dogs, NEXGARD® Chewables, NEXGARD SPECTRA® or 3 packs of BROADLINE® spot-on solution for cats for your chance to WIN!

See entry form for details. T&C's apply

WIN A JET SKI | WIN A SPA POOL | WIN OUTDOOR FURNITURE

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that New Zealand has one of the most advanced Animal Welfare Acts in the world? Back in 2015, the law was amended to add the word sentient to the Act. Sentient means that it acknowledges that animals have feelings. But you already knew that animals have feelings didn't you!

We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter. We thank you for your custom and we look forward to seeing you again soon.



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Healthy Pets**